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Archives at a distance

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oro.open.ac.uk

Archives at a distance

Ruth Cammies, University Archivist

November 2020





THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

- Created in 1969
- Headquarters in Milton Keynes – with offices in England, Wales, Scotland, Belfast and Dublin
- The UK's largest University, with over 168,000 students in 2019
- Students are taught at a distance – the majority do not visit the main OU campus

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY ARCHIVE

- Donated “special collections”
- Institutional Archives
- OU teaching materials
 - Materials for over 3000 OU modules, including over 22,000 audio visual titles



Some examples of OU programmes:

A100 1971 “Retrospect” – Actor Tom Chadbon performs part of the famous “To be or not to be” Hamlet soliloquy for a TV programme for the first OU Arts course



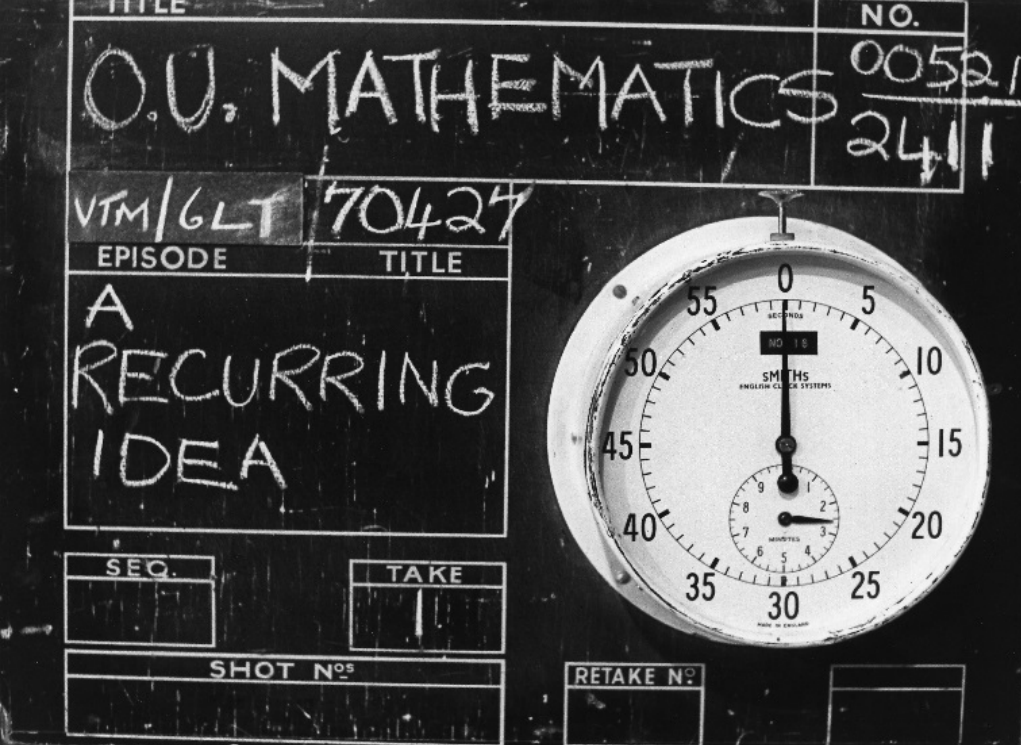
T100 1972 Materials and Mechanics: the Moulton Bicycle

A 20 minute programme for the first technology course featuring Alex Moulton and his development of the Moulton bicycle



The Audio visual archive also contains recordings of key moments of OU history. This was the ceremony to open the first buildings on the OU campus with Lord Mountbatten in 1970





AVA PROJECT

AVA: Access to Video Assets
2008-2011

Over 1000 tapes digitised from
obsolete formats

Prototype database set up –
including online streaming of
digitised programmes



Open University Digital Archive

Explore the OU's world-class heritage

HomeView AllExhibitionsFeaturedCollectionsAboutHelpDigital Archive Accessibility

Home >Staff sign in ?

Welcome to the OU Digital Archive

Search all collections

Search

Available online

OU Information programmes >

A selection of TV programmes broadcast between 1971 and 1993 to support OU students and inform them and other viewers about the University. Includes programmes with OU founders Jennie Lee and Harold Wilson.

1234

Play

The OU Digital Archive contains Open University study materials and items relating to the history of the University. A small selection of materials is available to view online. The site also contains a larger catalogue of materials that are currently not available to view by everyone due to copyright restrictions. OU staff sign-in for full access.

Online Archive Materials

Browse our selection of publicly available archive materials

Historical images >

Over 160 photographs relating to the history of The Open University

OU Information programmes >

Television programmes about The Open University from the 1970s onwards

Time to Think >

Time to Think: Open University Journeys in British and Irish prisons during the years of conflict 1972-2000 is an Open University Ireland oral history collection.

OU Degree Ceremonies >

A collection of archive items relating to Open University Degree Ceremonies.

Featured Item

Highlights from the Archive

See all featured >

Stuart Hall >

Remembering Professor Stuart Hall (1932-2014)

Exhibitions

Visit our online exhibitions to explore archive materials on a particular theme

See all exhibitions >

The OU Story >

A brief exploration of the history of The OU. Includes the creation of the OU, the growth of the organisation, expansion and consolidation, the changing student experience and The OU today.

The Jennie Lee Archive Collection >

This exhibition takes a look at the life of Jennie Lee, Baroness Lee of Asheridge, through some of the materials held in the Jennie Lee Archive collection at The Open University.

OU Research at 50 >

An overview celebrating 50 years of research at The Open University.

Contact the team

For help, information and advice regarding the OU Digital Archive contact the University Archive team:

university.archive@open.ac.uk

You can also refer to the FAQs on Using digital archive content

Elsewhere at the OU

Library Services >

Your gateway to a wide range of online information

Study at the OU >

Details about current OU courses

OpenLearn >

Home of free OU learning materials

THE OU DIGITAL ARCHIVE

Development project 2011-2016

Some of the original key system requirements:

- Dedicated metadata profiles for a range of archival content, including images, audio, video, text, archived web sites, and OU course records
- Able to display relationships between items – e.g video “x” was part of course “y” which is part of collection “z”
- Different levels of access – essential due to copyright restrictions
- Creation of a cataloguing/upload interface for the archive team

6

View All

☐ Available online

Current filters

Available online

Online resources only



Refine your search

Available Online

☒ Online resources only

Content Type

- ☐ Image
- ☐ Video & related
- ☐ Audio & related
- ☐ Person

Collection

[First](#) [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [Next>](#) [Last>>](#)

1 - 10 of 1001 items available to view online.

Remove the '[Available online](#)' filter to see all results.

Use the filters to narrow down the list of items (eg video, image).



Date: 2017

Duration: 02:59



Video

[OU BBC STEM Trailer 2017](#)

[Video](#) title OU BBC STEM Trailer 2017 Broadcast & Partnerships and The Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics TV Co-Productions for 2017. Showcased programmes include Soundwaves: The Symphony of Physics; The 21st Century Race for Space; The Search for a

Total 1 match



Audio

[Student D Interview](#)

Use of the “available online” filter



Historical OU Images

Images relating to the Open University, including images of the main Walton Hall campus in Milton Keynes and events such as the first graduation ceremony of the University. The OUDA collection represents a small sample of the full image archive.



Walton Hall



**Jennie Lee at a
Graduation Ceremony**



Art installation



**Don Swift and Naomi
McIntosh**



**Construction work on
the OU campus**



**Construction work on
the OU campus**



Historical OU images collection browse page

Historical OU TV and Radio

The Open University has produced a number of series to inform students and a wider audience about the University. Series such as 'Open Forum' and 'Countdown to the OU' covered various topics such as methods of teaching, information about modules and guidance on areas such as summer schools. The OUDA Historical Television and Radio collection includes a small sample of the archive. The collection will grow as more contents are added.



Thumbnail	Title ▼	Description	Date ▲
	Open Forum 10(1971) : general Assembly at Cranfield Institute of Technology	General assembly at Cranfield Institute of Technology, discusses consultative committees, the...	25 September 71
	Open Forum 03 (1971) : programme 3	A discussion on how to study, levels of study and allocation of time.	23 February 71
	Open Forum 02 (1971) : Programme 2	James Barber with part-time staff and students discusses the counselling service.	26 January 71

Historical OU TV and radio collection browse page

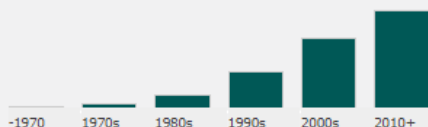
Refine your search ?

Faculty

- ☐ Faculty omitted
- ☐ Arts
- ☐ Business Development Unit
- ☐ Business & Law

[Show More...](#)

Date Span



Year

- ☐
- ☐ 01-Apr-17
- ☐ 01-Feb-14
- ☐ 01-May-15


[Show More...](#)


OU Study Materials

The Open University has been delivering modules/courses to students since 1971. The Study Materials collection is a comprehensive archive, including printed, audio/visual, multimedia and web materials. The collection also includes associated materials, such as transcripts of audio/visual content, set books, prospectuses and a selection of home experiment kits. The OUDA collection of Study Materials contains a sample of the full archive. The collection will grow as further materials are added

Title ▼	Module Code ▲	Resource Type ▼	Start Date ▼
Service Delivery:Health Service Version	701HSSD	Module	1994
Service Delivery:Social Service Version	701SSSD	Module	1994
An arts foundation course	A101	Module	1977
An arts foundation course	A102	Module	1987
An introduction to the humanities	A103	Module	1998
Voices, texts and material culture	A105	Module	2014
Voices and texts	A150	Module	2010
Making sense of things: an introduction to material culture	A151	Module	2012
Start writing for the internet	A171	Module	2003
Start writing essays	A172	Module	2003
Start writing family history	A173	Module	2003

OU Study materials collection browse page


S100

☐ Available online
 ?

Title: Science: a foundation course

Module code: S100

Module dates: 1971-1978

Module status: This course is closed and no longer in presentation.





Faculty: Science Faculty

Keyword(s): S100, Science: a foundation course, Undergraduate course, Open University




+ Show more...

+ Show presentation dates

Related Archive Content

-  Discovering science
-  Science: a foundation course
-  Science: a foundation course
-  Society and social science: a foundation course

Main texts
 Supplementary texts
 Video
Audio
 Web
 Set Books

Thumbnail	Title ▼	Item code ▲	Date ▼
	Introduction	00	1972
	Foundation course in science: an introduction	01	1971
	Observation and measurement	02	

Module view – users can see basic information about the OU module and browse the different types of materials associated with that module.


Clip: Introduction to Unit 17 of S100

Search ?

☐ Available online ?



Related Archive Content

-  **Examining a coastal environment to understand geological processes**
Professor Pentz gives an explanation of how we can find out how rocks were made by ...

Description

Stephen Hurry gives an introduction to Unit 17 of S100 which is about mitosis in living cells.

- Video Clip
- Transcript
- Subtitles

Rights statement:	Rights owned or controlled by The Open University
Restrictions on use:	This material can be used in accordance with The Open University conditions of use. A link to the conditions can be found at the bottom of all Digital Archive web pages.
Duration:	00:01:22
Keyword(s):	Mitosis, cell division.
Contributor(s):	Professor Michael Pentz, Stephen Hurry.

Video clip

ONLINE EXHIBITIONS AND FEATURES

- Showcase OU Archive content
- Tell a particular story with archive content – mixing images, audio and video with a narrative
- Give students a sense of shared history/community – despite not being on a physical campus

Exhibition: The OU Story

☐ Available online



The Open University was one of the world's first successful distance teaching universities, founded on the belief that communications technology could bring high quality degree-level learning to people who had not had the opportunity to attend traditional campus universities.

This exhibition is a brief journey through the history of the University, using materials held in The Open University Archive to look at some of the main events and developments - from Harold Wilson's initial plans in 1963, the creation of the University in 1969 and developments through to the present day.

Explore themes



1963-1969

How the OU was established



The first 10 years 1969-1979

The OU gains a Royal charter, teaching begins and the first students graduate



The 1980s

Finance pressures, technological change and expanding curriculum



1990s

Validation services, the 25th anniversary of the University and Baroness Boothroyd becomes OU Chancellor



2000 - present day

Expansion of Library services, creation of OpenLearn and the OU/BBC Partnership



List all items in this exhibition 

Exhibition: Historical OU Campus Tour

 ☐ Available online ?

Explore Themes

Berrill Building to St Michael's Church (page 3 of 6)

3. Betty Boothroyd Library

The Library building was opened in 2003 replacing the first Library building known as the Jennie Lee Library. The new Library was officially named in 2006 by Baroness Boothroyd in her honour. Baroness Boothroyd was Chancellor of The Open University from 1994 to 2006. Her archive of papers has been deposited into the University Archive in the Library and is available to view by appointment with the Archive.

For more information about Baroness Boothroyd and her connection with The Open University, visit the [online exhibition](#) which was created to coincide with the 25th anniversary of Boothroyd becoming the first female Speaker of the House of Commons on 27th April 1992.

To find out more about The Open University Library visit the [Library website](#).

The first image shows Baroness Boothroyd and Vice Chancellor Brenda Gourley at the naming ceremony for the Library in 2006. The second shows the building in 2018. [Additional images](#) of Baroness Boothroyd and the Library building are available in the OU Historical images collection.



Image : Betty Boothroyd Library Naming Ceremony

Date: 2006

See full record →



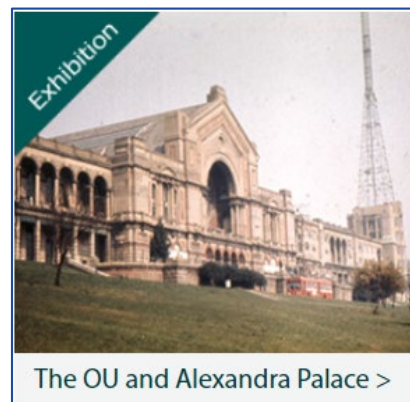
Image : Betty Boothroyd Library Building

Date: 2018

See full record →

Berrill Building to St Michael's Church (page 3 of 6)

A page from the Historical OU campus tour online exhibition – showing the Betty Boothroyd Library Building and Baroness Boothroyd in 2006 at the building naming ceremony with the then OU Vice Chancellor Brenda Gourley



Replying to @OUScotland

'Jennie Lee: from Lochgelly to the Lords' is a free exhibition at Glasgow's Mitchell Library from now throughout November & then at the Lochgelly Centre from 6 December 'til March 2020. But if you can't make it in person, there's an online version at bit.ly/OUjennielee #OU50



7:09 pm · 29 Oct 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

 <p>Jennie Lee M.A., LL.B. THE LABOUR CANDIDATE</p>	<p>North Lanark Parliamentary Election, 1931.</p>  <p>JENNIE LEE M.A., LL.B., THE LABOUR CANDIDATE.</p>
<p>Image : Jennie Lee polling cards</p>	
<p>Date: 1931</p>	
<p>See full record </p>	



OU_Library
@OU_Library

...

Today marks 47 years since the very first OU graduation ceremony, held at Alexandra Palace and broadcast live on BBC2! The Digital Archive has footage from this and many others over the years - what are your graduation ceremony memories? [#OUDigitalArchive](#)
open.ac.uk/library/digita...



8:00 am · 23 Jun 2020 · Hootsuite Inc.

11 Retweets 2 Quote Tweets 37 Likes



The Open University Library

Published by Hootsuite · 27 February ·

...

Snow has been falling on [#TheOpenUniversity](#) campus this morning. Here are some snowy campus photos from years gone by on the [#OUDigitalArchive](#)



2,577
People reached

239
Engagements

Boost post

70

2 comments 2 shares

Examples of Archive-related posts using the OU Library social media accounts. 239 people “engaged” with the snowy campus pictures in February this year on Facebook!

Open University Digital Archive

Explore the OU's world-class heritage

Home View All Exhibitions Featured **Collections** About Help

Digital Archive Accessibility

Home > Collections > **Time to Think...** [Staff sign in](#)



Time to Think...

Search all collections **Search**

☒ Available online

Time to think...

Time to Think: Open University journeys in British and Irish prisons during the years of conflict 1972-2000 is a unique oral history archive. The collection contains interviews on the educational journeys of Loyalist and Republican ex-prisoners, Open University staff who tutored in the prisons or were involved in administration of study from the Belfast Office, prison education staff and Open University students who worked in the prisons. It also includes reflective interviews with OU staff and the Time to Think team about gathering interviews and building the archive, alongside audio clips, course materials, films and other artefacts.

	First name	Last name	Role	Summary
	Tommy		Studied in prison	Tommy attended school in County Armagh and left age seventeen with six O Levels. He was imprisoned...
	Paddy		Studied in prison	Paddy grew up in a rural community left school at sixteen with few qualifications and was...

OU ARCHIVES IN TEACHING

The Time to Think collection on the Digital Archive and the Coping in Isolation: Time to Think course on the OU's OpenLearn platform

OpenLearn

Free learning from The Open University

Search for free courses, interactives, videos and more!

Home Free courses **Subjects** For Study For Life TV & Radio [Create account / Sign in](#)


Home > Subjects > Health, Sports & Psychology > Free courses > **Coping in isolation: Time to Think**

Health, Sports & Psychology | Featured content | Free courses | All content

Free course

Coping in isolation: Time to Think

Free statement of participation on completion



About this free course

6 hours study

1 Level 1: Introductory

Create an account to get more

Create an account and sign in. Enrol and complete the course for a free statement of participation or digital badge if available.

[Create account / Sign in](#)

Become an OU student

BA (Honours) Arts and Humanities

BA (Honours) Social Sciences

BA/BSc (Honours) Open degree

Download this course

Download this course for use offline or for other devices

Word Kindle PDF Epub 2

[See more formats >](#)

Share this free course

[f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [e](#)

Course description

Course content

Course reviews

SESSION 1 SESSION 2 SESSION 3

You can start this course right now without signing-up. Click on any of the course content sections below to start at any point in this course. If you want to be able to track your progress, earn a free Statement of Participation, and access all course quizzes and activities, [sign-up](#).

Course content

Introduction and overview

SESSION 1 Session 1: Getting used to lockdown

SESSION 2 Session 2: Life in a 'new normal'

SESSION 3 Session 3: Our minds are always free

THE “STUDENT HUB LIVE” ARCHIVE

A current project to catalogue and transfer over 500 videos of Student Hub Live sessions to the OU Digital Archive.

We are aiming to provide various ways of filtering the videos to produce useful “playlists” of videos on various subjects for students – such as revision or note taking.

[Home](#)[Event catch-ups](#)[About](#)[FAQs](#)

Student Hub Live OU Fresher broadcasts trailer



What is the Student Hub Live?



What is Study Skills development workshop delivered in Adobe Connect online room

THANK YOU

- The OU Digital Archive: <https://www.open.ac.uk/library/digital-archive>
- OpenLearn course Coping in Isolation: Time to Think
<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/health-sports-psychology/coping-isolation-time-think/>

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